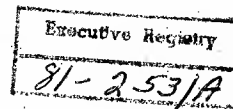


The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505



9 FEB 1981

Professor Arthur L. Funk
Department of History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Arthur,

Thank you for your letter of 26 January and for the good wishes it conveyed.

The CIA has indeed reestablished a historian's office and is in the process of formulating a program and weighing the "in-house" versus "public" question.

I hope at some point to look more closely into the situation regarding the OSS materials, but understand that the lengthy business of declassifying and preparing them for public access is moving forward.

Yours,

Signed

William J. Casey

Distribution:

Orig - Adse.

- 1 - Acting Chief, History Staff
- 1 - ER

Drafted by History Staff/Robert Knapp
Typed in ES/cls (5 Feb 81)

3 February 1981

DCI

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ben Evans
Executive Secretary

FROM : Roberta Knapp
Acting Chief, History Staff

SUBJECT : Materials Relating to OSS

1. The mandate of the CIA History Staff covers the period from 1947--the establishment of the Agency--to the present. OSS and other World War II activities are covered incidentally in some of the History Staff's classified, closely held publications that deal with units having continuity from the war period. Examples include the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, map information, printing, and security elements, and certain West European stations. A two-volume classified study titled "Donovan and the CIA" is about to be published without the imprimatur of the History Staff by the Intelligence Institute of the Office of Training and Education. The History Staff has no work in progress on the OSS.

2. The Agency holds 6,500 cubic feet of OSS records, of which approximately half were determined by the Archivist of the National Archives and Records Center in 1978 to be of permanent value. A classification review team of about 15 former intelligence officers--some with service going back to OSS--has been at work since January 1979 to review the classification of these permanent records for eventual accessioning to NARS. As of the end of 1980, this team had reviewed 1,600 cubic feet of the permanent OSS records, declassifying about 93 percent. The main reasons for withholding the 7 percent were to protect sources, foreign government information, and foreign liaison relationships. There remain approximately 1,500-1,700 cubic feet to be reviewed, with the exact amount to be determined by decisions from NARS as to whether certain OSS records are in fact of permanent value. The target date for completion of the classification review is summer 1982.

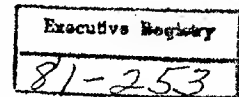
3. Following classification review, the Information Management Staff of the DO--the custodian of the OSS files--arranges, in coordination with the Records Management Division of the Office of Information Service, DA, for accessioning to NARS. The first 198 cubic feet of OSS records was transferred to NARS in January 1980. Provisions in the accessioning agreement relating to restrictions on the release of the names of US persons affiliated with the OSS are still under discussion. CIA has stated its willingness to negotiate suitable alternatives to the specific restrictions cited in the agreement. After accessioning, NARS must process the material for presentation and release to the public.

Page 2
Memo for Ben Evans
3 February 1981

4. In 1945 the Research and Analysis component of OSS, together with its records, was merged into the Department of State. The Research and Analysis records--mostly reports--were turned over to NARS and, beginning in 1972, they were screened for declassification by the CIA review team. Over 90 percent of the materials reviewed were declassified.

5. The CIA Historical Intelligence Collection includes both the classified and the sanitized versions of the War Report--Office of Strategic Services prepared in 1947 and published in 1949 by the History Project of the War Department. It also has various OSS training manuals and occasional publications, as well as a large collection of unclassified memoirs and other materials relating to the history of the OSS.

Roberta Knapp
Acting Chief,
CIA History Staff
203 Key Bldg.



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Department of History
4131 GPA
Tel. 904-392-0271

January 26, 1981

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bill:

Now that you have been confirmed, Genevieve and I once more would like to congratulate you on now having direction of an organization which, I know from our many conversations, you will be able to revitalize and make into the sort of intelligence operation the country needs and should have. We were fortunate to have been able to watch you on TV during the confirmation hearings, which were broadcast here in their entirety. We were impressed by your testimony.

I cannot help but wonder, now that your time is at a premium, how your book will come along. I also wonder if, as DCI, you will be able to make available more materials on OSS. As I recall, an OSS history was started by Whitney Shepardson, but was never finished. I talked to John Bross about this a number of years ago, but he told me nothing was ever located.

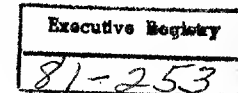
General Collins, head of the Army's Center of Military History, has invited me to become a member of the supervisory board which reviews his section's work once a year. We meet next on May 1. I understand that CIA has also established a historian's office. I wonder if the historical work will be largely "in house," or will prepare materials for the general public.

Best wishes in your new responsibilities,

Sincerely,

Arthur L. Funk
Professor of History

ALF/ds



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